IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting biometric data in a network, comprising the steps of:

obtaining biometric information for a user;

obtaining a plurality of biometric portions from said biometric information, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user; and

transmitting said biometric portions to a destination using a plurality of packets.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said user is provided access to a requested device, service or facility if said received biometric portions match corresponding biometric prototype portions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said biometric information is a biometric image.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said biometric information includes speech segments.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving biometric data in a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of packets containing biometric portions corresponding to a user, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user;

determining if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

evaluating said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said received packets contain data that has been interchanged from a plurality of original packets and wherein said method further comprising the step of integrating said received packets to generate said original packets.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising the steps of:

obtaining at least two packets of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

interchanging said data from said at least two packets to obtain at least two interchanged packets; and

transmitting said interchanged packets to a destination.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said interchanging step further comprises the steps of placing odd numbered frames from said at least two packets into a first interchanged packet and even numbered frames from said at least two packets into a second interchanged packet.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said interchanging step generates N interchanged packets and wherein said method further comprises the steps of placing every Nth frame in a given interchanged packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said packets of data include telephone data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving data in a packet network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of packets containing data that has been interchanged from a plurality of original packets, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric

portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

integrating said received packets to generate said original packets;

determining if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

processing said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising the steps of:

obtaining frames of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

generating N interchanged packets by placing every Nth frame of data in a given interchanged packet; and

transmitting said interchanged packets to a destination.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said frames of data includes biometric information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said frames of data includes voice data.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting biometric data in a network, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

obtain biometric information for a user;

obtain a plurality of biometric portions from said biometric information, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user; and

transmit said biometric portions to a destination using a plurality of packets.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving biometric data in a network, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

receive a plurality of packets containing biometric portions corresponding to a user, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user;

determine if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

evaluate said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

obtain at least two packets of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

interchange said data from said at least two packets to obtain at least two interchanged packets; and

transmit said interchanged packets to a destination.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving data in a packet network, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

receive a plurality of packets containing data that has been interchanged from a plurality of original packets, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

integrate said received packets to generate said original packets;

determine if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

process said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

obtain frames of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

generate N interchanged packets by placing every Nth frame of data in a given interchanged packet; and

transmit said interchanged packets to a destination.

20. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for transmitting biometric data in a network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain biometric information for a user;

a step to obtain a plurality of biometric portions from said biometric information, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user; and

a step to transmit said biometric portions to a destination using a plurality of packets.

21. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for receiving biometric data in a network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to receive a plurality of packets containing biometric portions corresponding to a user, wherein one or more of said plurality of biometric portions identifies or verifies said user;

a step to determine if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

a step to evaluate said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain at least two packets of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

a step to interchange said data from said at least two packets to obtain at least two interchanged packets; and

a step to transmit said interchanged packets to a destination.

23. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for receiving data in a packet network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to receive a plurality of packets containing data that has been interchanged from a plurality of original packets, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

a step to integrate said received packets to generate said original packets;

a step to determine if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing; and

a step to process said received packets if said received packets provide sufficient data for processing.

24. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for transmitting data in a packet network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain frames of data for transmission, wherein said data comprises one or more biometric portions, wherein one or more of said one or more biometric portions identifies or verifies a user;

a step to generate N interchanged packets by placing every Nth frame of data in a given interchanged packet; and

a step to transmit said interchanged packets to a destination.